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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A wireless network apparatus comprising:
 - a housing;
 - a bus interface located inside the housing, wherein the bus interface provides a connection to a data processing system;
 - a transceiver located inside the housing, wherein the transceiver sends and receives data from a wireless connection;
 - a data buffer located inside the housing and being connected to the bus interface and the transceiver, wherein the data buffer holds data for transfer between the bus interface and the transceiver;
 - a display device located on an exterior of the housing, wherein the display device is located on the exterior of the wireless network apparatus in a location for viewing by a human user; and
 - a control unit located within the housing, wherein the control unit controls the transfer of data through the data buffer, identifies a signal strength for the wireless connection, and displays the signal strength on the display device.
2. The wireless network apparatus of claim 1, wherein the display device is a set of light emitting diodes arranged in an array.

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3. The wireless network apparatus of claim 1, wherein the display device is a liquid crystal display.

4. The wireless network apparatus of claim 1, wherein the signal strength is displayed as a bar on the display device.

5. The wireless network apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

a sound generator unit, wherein the control unit selectively generates a sound using the sound generator unit based on the signal strength.

6. The wireless network apparatus of claim 1, wherein the control unit generates the sound if the signal strength falls below a threshold.

7. The wireless network apparatus of claim 1, wherein the wireless network apparatus is a wireless network card.

8. The wireless network apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

a battery located within the housing, wherein the battery is used to power the wireless network apparatus when power is unavailable from a data processing system.

9. A method in a wireless network card for indicating a signal strength, the method comprising:

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sending data to a network from the wireless network card;

in response to receiving a response to the data, determining the signal strength; and

displaying the signal strength on a display device located on an exterior of the wireless network card.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the display device is an array of light emitting diodes.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the display device is a liquid crystal display.

12. The method of claim 9 further comprising:

generating a sound indication in response to the signal strength falling below a threshold level.

13. A data processing system in a wireless network card for indicating a signal strength, the data processing system comprising:

sending means for sending data to a network from the wireless network card;

determining means for determining the signal strength, in response to receiving a response to the data; and

displaying means for displaying the signal strength on a display device located on an exterior of the wireless network card.

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14. The data processing system of claim 13, wherein the display device is an array of light emitting diodes.

15. The data processing system of claim 13, wherein the display device is a liquid crystal display.

16. The data processing system of claim 13 further comprising:

generating means for generating a sound indication in response to the signal strength falling below a threshold level.

17. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for indicating a signal strength, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for sending data to a network from the wireless network card;

second instructions, in response to receiving a response to the data, for determining the signal strength; and

third instructions for displaying the signal strength on a display device located on an exterior of the wireless network card.

18. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the display device is an array of light emitting diodes.

19. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the display device is a liquid crystal display.

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20. The computer program product of claim 17 further comprising:

fourth instructions for generating a sound indication in response to the signal strength falling below a threshold level.